

Fast Track

Issue: How can a verification application be expedited?

Regulatory Requirement:

There is no regulatory requirement to expedite any verification application or request for reconsideration. There is, however, a requirement in the VAAR for businesses to be verified to be eligible for consideration for a Veterans First procurement action and to be awarded a contract under Veterans First. VAAR stands for Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation. Section 804.1102 requires that contracting officers award VOSB or service-disabled Veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) set-aside contracts only to companies that appear as “verified” in the VetBiz.gov Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database.

Definition:

Fast Track Program: for a period of time in early 2011, companies who submitted offers to VA and that were determined to be prospective awardees were eligible to have their examination completed within 21 business days, a much more compressed cycle than the 90 days permitted by regulation. This was important because the contract award was suspended until a decision was issued on the company’s VOSB Verification Program application. The program was created as a deviation to VAAR 804.1102.

Background:

Why was there a Fast Track Program?

Due to the large backlog of initial verification applications resulting from implementation of P.L. 111-275, firms pending verification during the period October 1, 2010 through September 4, 2011 were listed in the Vendor Information Pages (VIP) while their application was under-going examination. **When all businesses in VIP were verified by September 4, 2011, the Fast Track program was completed and terminated.**

Was the “Fast Track Program” successful?

Yes. 83% of applications were processed within the 21-day time-frame. VA’s fast track action identified 141 companies that were ineligible for award for various reasons.

Center for Veterans Enterprise Verification Assistance Brief - Fast Track